



Office of the Governor
State of Missouri

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Mary Anita Groves Bland was born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1936 to Jack Curtis Groves and Winefred Hawkins Groves, and during her life she was a proud resident of the city, graduating from R.T. Coles High School in 1954 and later attending Ottawa University, where she received certification in community relations; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, she married Jessie C. Bland, who preceded her in death, and together, they had four children: Pamela, Rodney, Craig and Arletha; and

WHEREAS, in November 1980, Mary Groves Bland was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives to represent District 43, which included a portion of Jackson County. She represented citizens of Kansas City in the House until 1998, when she won a special election to the Missouri Senate, where she served until her retirement in 2004; and

WHEREAS, as a legislator in both the House and Senate, Mary Groves Bland was known as a champion of legislation to help Missourians in the areas of disabilities, social services, health and education; during her legislative career, she was recognized with awards from numerous organizations in honor of her work; and

WHEREAS, in addition to many positions she held in connection with her legislative seat, Mary Groves Bland also served as chairwoman of Freedom, Inc. and as treasurer of the Niles Home for Children; for 26 years, she sponsored the annual Christmas Community Party for celebration and fellowship, and ensured that both seniors and children received gifts; and

WHEREAS, after a lifetime of service to others, Senator Mary Groves Bland passed away on February 19, 2016, in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

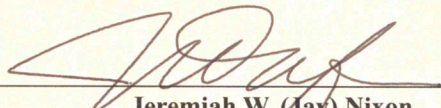
NOW THEREFORE, I, Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, as a mark of respect for the death of

SENATOR MARY GROVES BLAND

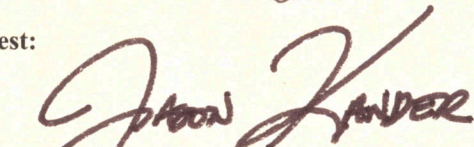
and for her service for the State of Missouri, do hereby order that the flag of the United States and the flag of Missouri shall be flown at half-staff at all government buildings in Jackson County, Missouri, on March 5, 2016, from sunrise to sunset.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 3rd day of March, 2016.




Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor

Attest:


Secretary of State